

A Life Packed Full

Most people think of John Wesley as a powerful preacher, and indeed, he was.

Wesley (1703 – 1791) is largely credited, along with his brother Charles Wesley, as founding the Methodist movement which he began when he took to open-air preaching.

What many do not know, however, is how prolific John Wesley was.

Wesley averaged three sermons a day for 54 years, preaching a total of more than 44,000 times in his life.

In doing so, he traveled by horseback and carriage more than 200,000 miles – about 5,000 miles a year.

For even a very productive man, that would seem to be a full-time effort.

Still, John Wesley found time to write and edit. His published works include a four-volume commentary on the entire Bible, a five-volume treatise on natural philosophy, a four-volume work on church history, and a dictionary of the English language.

He also wrote histories of England and Rome, grammars on the Hebrew, Latin, Greek, French and English languages, three works on medicine, six volumes of church music, seven volumes of sermons and controversial papers, and he edited a library of 50 volumes known as *The Christian Library*.

He habitually arose at 4 a.m. and retired at 10 p.m., allowing only brief periods for meals.

Yet, he declared, “I have more hours of private retirement than any man in England.”

In reading about his productivity – and the quality of his work – I am ashamed that I don’t accomplish more. Perhaps you may have similar feelings.

Our days are identical suitcases – all the same size – but some people pack more into them than others.

As believers – and people who are involved in the very serious mission of health care – we are challenged in Ephesians 5:16 to be “making the most of your (our) time.”



– Beecher Hunter